

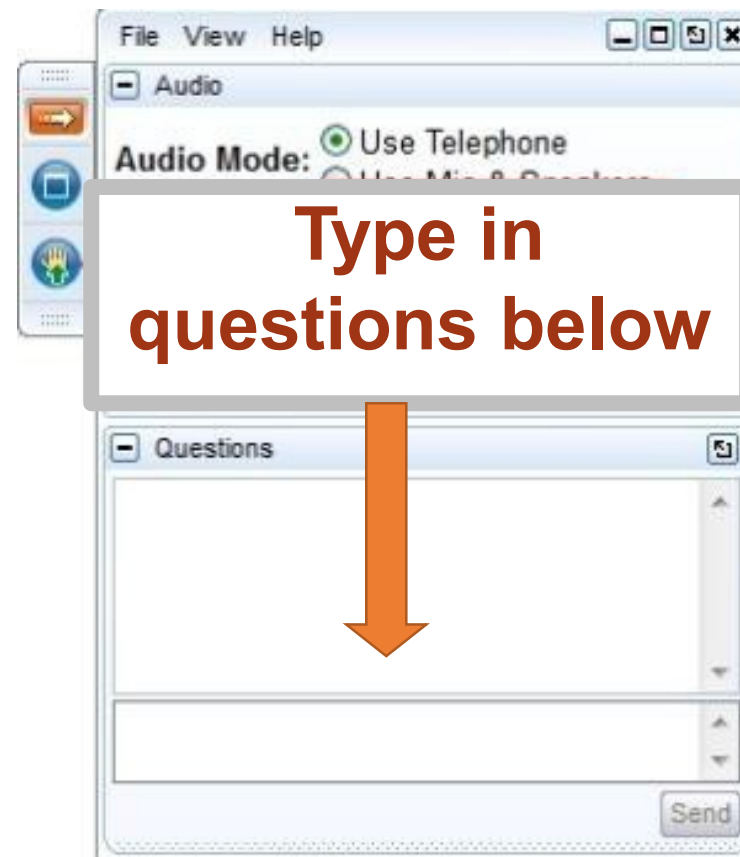


# Preparing Homelessness Services and Shelters for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 11, 2020

# House Keeping

- Because this is a webinar, attendees are muted
- Please type any questions you have into the Questions Box
- We are recording this webinar and will send out the link to everyone who registered at a later date.



# Speakers

William (Bill) Gerrish

Department of Public Health

Leigh Shields Church

Department of Housing

Jennifer Paradis

Beth-El Center, Inc. (Milford)

# Leigh Shields-Church

CAN Manager  
CT Department of Housing

# William (Bill) Gerrish

Health Program Supervisor  
Public Health Preparedness and Response  
Connecticut Department of Public Health

# Coronavirus Facts

[CDC, 2019](#)

## What is it?

- A respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in more than 100 locations internationally, including in the United States.

## Symptoms

- **2-14 days after exposure.\***
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

## How does it spread?

- Person-to-person spread
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes/ droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

# Coronavirus Facts

[CDC, 2019](#)

## What is it?

- A respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in more than 100 locations internationally, including in the United States.

## Symptoms

Some may have the virus and be asymptomatic, meaning no symptoms. The virus can still be heavily contagious.

## How does it spread?

- Person-to-person spread
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes/ droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

# What Are the Concerns?

---

- Community Spread
  - **Community spread** means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.
- Who's At Greatest Risk?
  - **Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions** like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.
  - **Pregnant Women and Children**
  - **Homeless Shelter Population**



# Before and Outbreak Occurs: Plan

*[Interim Guidance for Homeless Shelters, CDC, 2019](#)*

- Connect to community-wide planning
  - Private-Public Planning Group – Local Government
  - Use FEMA Whole Community Approach
    - Shared responsibility between individuals, faith-based communities, non-profit organizations, schools, etc
- Establish ongoing communication with your local public health department to facilitate access to relevant information before and during an outbreak.
  - Have an Internal Emergency Plan
  - Work with community leaders and stakeholders

**Additional strategies for developing an emergency operations plan are available on the [CDC Website](#)**

# State of Connecticut - Local Health Departments and Districts, June 2019

## Health Districts <sup>1</sup>

1. Bristol-Burlington Health District
2. Central Connecticut Health District
3. Chatham Health District
4. Chesprocott Health District
5. CT River Area Health District
6. East Shore District Health Department
7. Eastern Highlands Health District
8. Farmington Valley Health District
9. Ledge Light Health District
10. Naugatuck Valley Health District
11. Newtown Health District
12. North Central District Health Department
13. Northeast District Department of Health
14. Plainville-Southington Regional Health District
15. Pomperaug Health District
16. Quinnipiac Valley Health District
17. Torrington Area Health District
18. Uncas Health District
19. West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
20. Westport Weston Health District

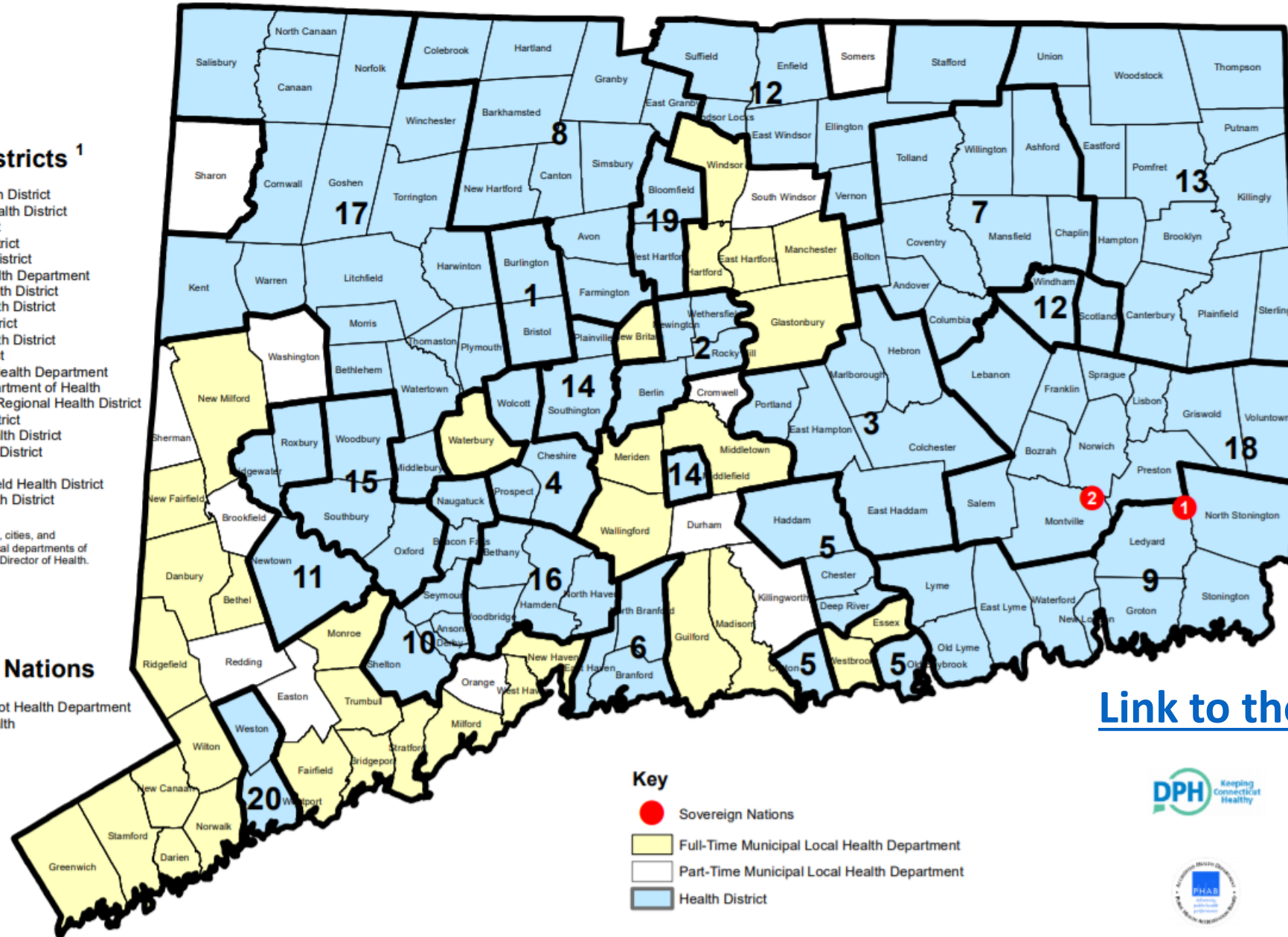
<sup>1</sup> Health Districts are towns, cities, and boroughs united to form local departments of health and have a full-time Director of Health.

## Sovereign Nations

1. Mashantucket Pequot Health Department
2. Mohegan Tribal Health



June 20, 2019



# Address key prevention strategies in your emergency operations plan

---

Plan

Review

Promote

Develop

Identify

Provide

# Plan

- **Plan**

- ways to limit face-to-face contact between people at your organization
- ways to continue essential services if on-site operations are scaled back temporarily
- for staff absences (Develop flexible attendance and sick-leave policies)

# Review

**Review your process for planning events, programs, and services**

**Current Recommendation:**

- Refrain from holding large gatherings
- Convert to virtual meetings when possible

# Promote

## **Promote the practice of everyday preventive actions**

- Ensure that staff and residents wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Encourage staff and residents to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Make sure tissues are available, and encourage staff and residents to cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Encourage staff should stay home when they are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Increase daily cleanings!

# Develop

**Develop a method for monitoring and tracking COVID-19-related staff absences**

# Identify

**Identify space that can be used to separate sick people (if possible)**

# Provide

**Provide COVID-19 prevention supplies at your organization**  
Ex. soap, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, trash baskets, and disposable facemasks

# Poll:

---

- Are there any supplies needed or barriers to you keeping your shelter/facility clean?

# During a COVID-19 outbreak in your community: Act

---

**Activate your Emergency Operations Plan**

**Limit Face-To-Face Contact**

**Those at high risk of Severe COVID-19, should not be designated a caregivers to sick clients**

**Use Disposable Gloves**

**Limit Visitors**



# Suspected Infection of Staff or Resident

---

1. Isolate the individual
2. Have the individual wear a disposable face mask
3. Monitor symptoms
4. Increase preventative measures and daily cleaning
5. Contact your local health department

\*Follow normal protocol for assisting someone who appears to need medical attention, but with additional caution\*

# Responding After Persons Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility

---

- Follow Interim Guidance for [US Institutions of Higher Education](#) on working with state and local health officials to isolate ill persons and provide temporary housing as needed.
- **Close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection** to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
- **Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.** If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.

# Jennifer Paradis

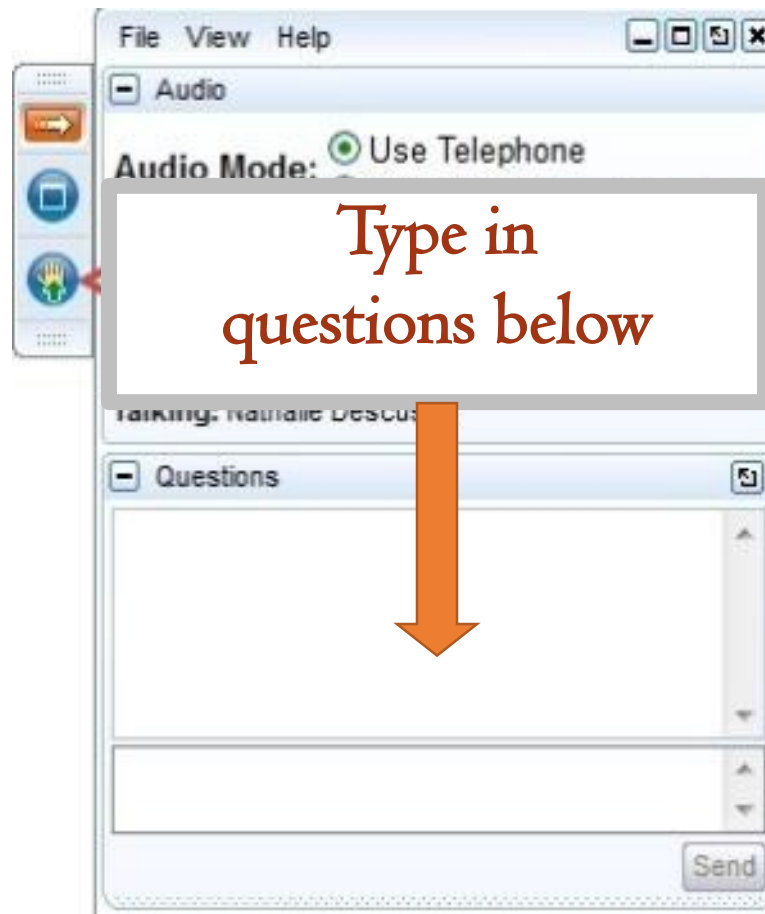
Executive Director  
Beth-El Center, Inc. (Milford)

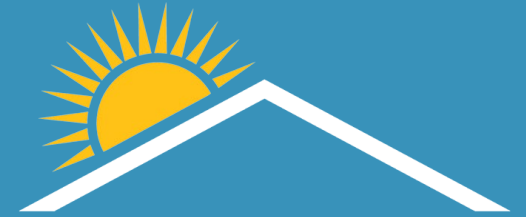
# Helpful Resources

---

- HUD Guidance: [Infectious Disease and Provider Preparedness](#)
- CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- NAEH Guidance: <https://endhomelessness.org/coronavirus-and-homelessness/>
- USICH Guidance: <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>

# Questions?





Contact:

---

**info@cceh.org**